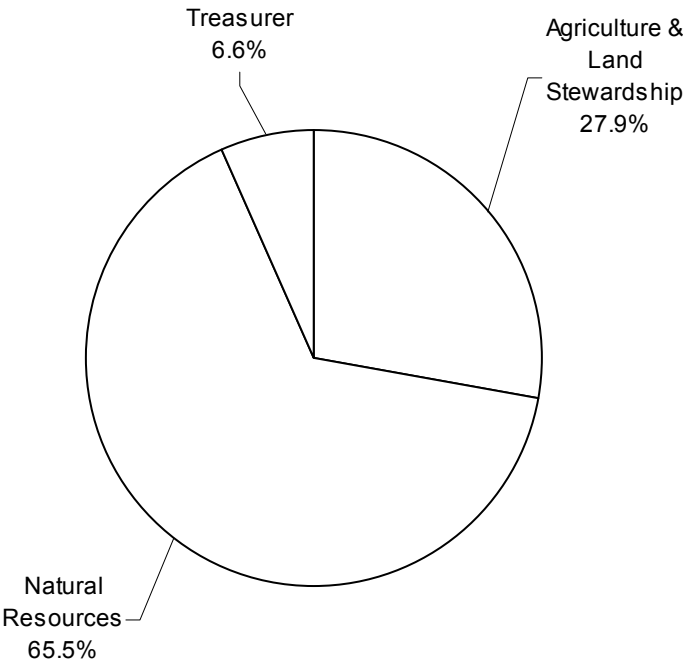
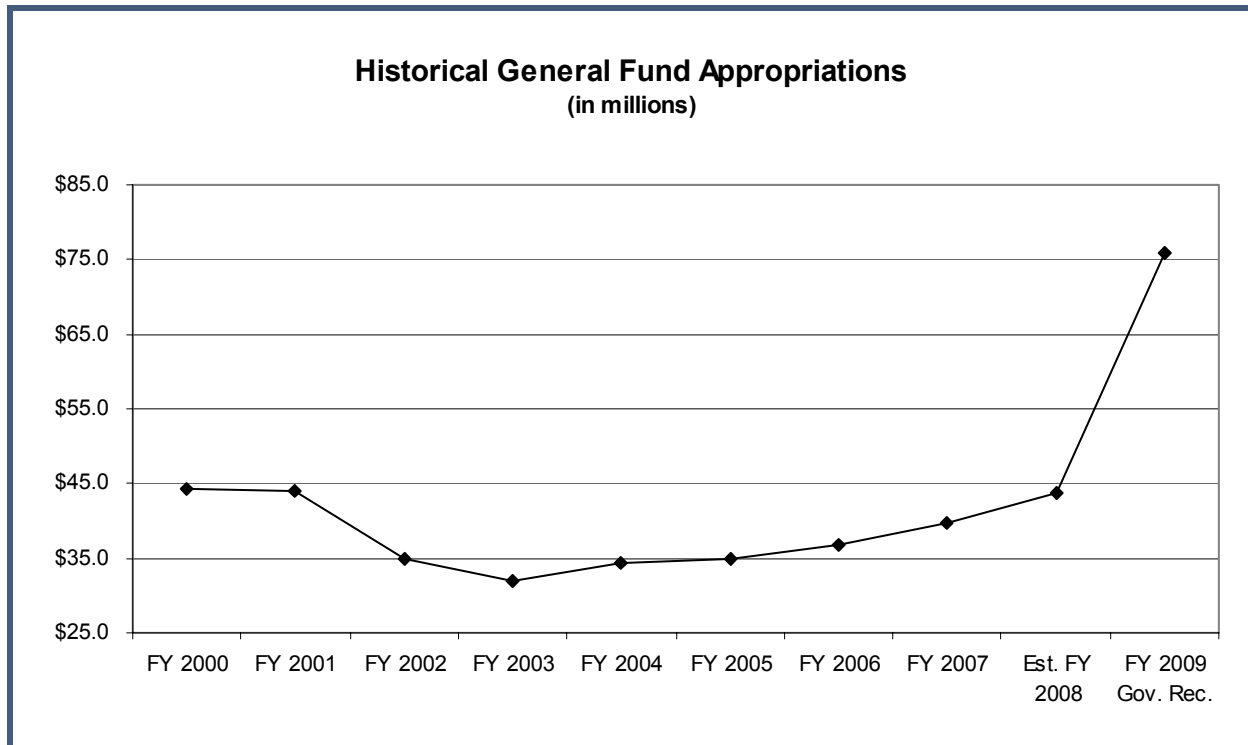


**AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

FY 2009 General Fund Governor's Recommendations



Agriculture & Land Stewardship	\$	21,139,509
Natural Resources		49,619,822
Treasurer		5,000,000
	\$	<u>75,759,331</u>



FY 2009 GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

The Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALs) was created in 1923 to oversee agriculture in the State. Land stewardship functions were added in 1986. The Department has two operating divisions: the Consumer Protection and Industry Services Division and the Soil Conservation Division.

The Governor is recommending FY 2009 General Fund appropriations totaling \$21.1 million. This is a decrease of \$185,000 compared to estimated FY 2008. The Governor is also recommending FY 2009 other fund appropriations totaling \$16.7 million. This is no change compared to estimated FY 2008.

General Fund Recommendations

	Estimated FY 2008	Gov Rec FY 2009	Gov Rec vs. FY 2008
<u>Agriculture and Land Stewardship</u>			
Administrative Division	\$ 19,278,172	\$ 19,278,172	\$ 0
Chronic Wasting Disease	100,000	100,000	0
Regulatory Dairy Products	951,666	951,666	0
Avian Influenza	50,000	50,000	0

Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

	Estimated FY 2008	Gov Rec FY 2009	Gov Rec vs. FY 2008
<u>Agriculture and Land Stewardship, cont.</u>			
Apiary Program	40,000	40,000	0
Soil Commissioners Expense	250,000	250,000	0
Sr. Farmers Market Program	77,000	77,000	0
Gypsy Moth Control - GF	50,000	50,000	0
Emerald Ash Borer Public Awareness Project	50,000	50,000	0
Emergency Veterinarian Rapid Response Services	130,000	130,000	0
Organic Agricultural Products	54,671	54,671	0
Grape & Wine Development Fund	283,000	108,000	-175,000
IA Jr. Angus Program	10,000	0	-10,000
Total Agriculture and Land Stewardship	\$ 21,324,509	\$ 21,139,509	\$ -185,000

Changes include:

- A decrease of \$175,000 to the Grape and Wine Development Fund.
- A decrease of \$10,000 for the Iowa Junior Angus Program.

Other Fund Recommendations

	Estimated FY 2008	Gov Rec FY 2009	Gov Rec vs. FY 2008
<u>Agriculture and Land Stewardship</u>			
Agriculture and Land Stewardship			
Native Horse and Dog Program	\$ 305,516	\$ 305,516	\$ 0
Open Feedlots Research Project	50,000	50,000	0
Conservation Reserve Enhance-EFF	1,500,000	1,500,000	0
Watershed Protection Fund-EFF	2,550,000	2,550,000	0
Farm Management Demo.-EFF	850,000	850,000	0
Agricultural Drainage Wells-EFF	1,480,000	1,480,000	0
Cost Share-EFF	7,000,000	7,000,000	0
Conservation Reserve Prog.-EFF	1,500,000	1,500,000	0
So. Iowa Conservation & Dev. Authority-EFF	300,000	300,000	0
Motor Fuel Inspection	300,000	300,000	0
Flood Prevention Study-EFF	150,000	150,000	0
Farm to School Program-EFF	80,000	80,000	0
State Apiarist Program-EFF	40,000	40,000	0
Total Agriculture and Land Stewardship	\$ 16,105,516	\$ 16,105,516	\$ 0
Loess Hills Development and Conservation Authority			
Loess Hills-EFF	\$ 580,000	\$ 580,000	\$ 0
Total Agriculture and Land Stewardship	\$ 16,685,516	\$ 16,685,516	\$ 0

Issues

Ethanol Testing – House File 2759 (FY 2007 Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Act) created the Renewable Fuel Infrastructure Fund in the State Treasurer’s Office. Funding was provided from the Grow Iowa Values Fund. For FY 2007 and FY 2008, the DALS received \$300,000 to screen and test motor fuels at production plants, to test motor fuel sold at dealerships, and to inspect and audit motor fuel production

Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

at processing plants. *The Governor is recommending funding of \$300,000 from the Grow Iowa Values Fund for this Program.*

Avian Influenza – Avian Influenza, or bird flu, is a viral illness that can infect a variety of animals, including birds and pigs. Although the disease is spread through the wild bird population, poultry can be infected and are more susceptible to illness when exposed. There have been no cases of Avian Influenza reported in the United States. *The Governor is recommending funding of \$50,000 from the General Fund for this Program.*

Emerald Ash Borer – The Emerald Ash Borer is an insect belonging to a group of metallic wood boring beetles. These insects kill weakened trees as part of the natural nutrient recycling scheme. However, the Emerald Ash Borer will vigorously kill growing or weakened ash trees. Although this insect has not been detected in Iowa, the insect was detected in northeast Illinois this past summer and 18 Illinois counties are under quarantine. Movement of the emerald ash borer occurs when people transport infested nursery stock, firewood, and logs to uninfested areas. *The Governor is recommending funding of \$50,000 from the General Fund for this Program.*

Department of Natural Resources

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is responsible for maintaining State parks and forests, protecting the environment, and managing energy, fish, wildlife, and land and water resources in Iowa.

The Governor is recommending FY 2009 General Fund appropriations totaling \$20.0 million. This is a decrease of \$225,000 compared to estimated FY 2008. The Governor is also recommending FY 2009 General Fund appropriations totaling \$29.6 million for capital projects. This is an increase of \$29.6 million compared to estimated FY 2008. The Governor is also recommending FY 2009 other fund appropriations of \$42.1 million. This is no change compared to estimated FY 2008.

General Fund Recommendations

	Estimated FY 2008	Gov Rec FY 2009	Gov Rec vs. FY 2008
<u>Natural Resources, Department of</u>			
Natural Resources Operations	\$ 20,244,822	\$ 20,019,822	\$ -225,000
Total Natural Resources, Department of	\$ 20,244,822	\$ 20,019,822	\$ -225,000
<u>Natural Resources Capital</u>			
Lake Restoration Program	\$ 0	\$ 8,600,000	\$ 8,600,000
REAP	0	20,000,000	20,000,000
Odor Study	0	1,000,000	1,000,000
Total Natural Resources Capital	\$ 0	\$ 29,600,000	\$ 29,600,000

Other Fund Recommendations

	Estimated FY 2008	Gov Rec FY 2009	Gov Rec vs. FY 2008
<u>Natural Resources, Department of</u>			
Fish & Game-DNR Admin Expenses	\$ 37,626,733	\$ 37,626,733	\$ 0
NPDES Permit Application Processing	700,000	700,000	0
Snowmobile Registration Fees	100,000	100,000	0
UST Administration Match	200,000	200,000	0
GWF-Storage Tanks Study-DNR	100,303	100,303	0
GWF-Household Hazardous Waste-DNR	447,324	447,324	0
GWF-Well Testing Admin 2%-DNR	62,461	62,461	0
GWF-Groundwater Monitoring-DNR	1,686,751	1,686,751	0
GWF-Landfill Alternatives-DNR	618,993	618,993	0
GWF-Waste Reduction and Assistance	192,500	192,500	0
GWF-Solid Waste Authorization	50,000	50,000	0
GWF-Geographic Information System	297,500	297,500	0
Total Natural Resources, Department of	\$ 42,082,565	\$ 42,082,565	\$ 0
<u>Natural Resources Capital</u>			
REAP-EFF	\$ 15,500,000	\$ 0	\$ -15,500,000
Volunteers and Keepers of Land-EFF	100,000	100,000	0
Park Operations & Maintenance-EFF	2,470,000	2,470,000	0
GIS Information for Watershed-EFF	195,000	195,000	0
Water Quality Monitoring-EFF	2,955,000	2,955,000	0
Water Quality Protection-EFF	500,000	500,000	0
Air Quality Monitoring- Livestock-EFF	235,000	0	-235,000
Animal Feeding Operations-EFF	360,000	360,000	0
Air Quality Monitoring-EFF	325,000	520,000	195,000
Database Development-EFF	50,000	0	-50,000
Floodplain Management/Dam Safety-EFF	0	150,000	150,000
Water Quantity-EFF	480,000	480,000	0
Resource Conservation and Development-EFF	300,000	0	-300,000
Biofuels Permitting-EFF	0	90,000	90,000
Global Climate Change-EFF	0	150,000	150,000
Total Natural Resources Capital	\$ 23,470,000	\$ 7,970,000	\$ -15,500,000

Changes include:

- A General Fund decrease of \$225,000 to the DNR operations budget.
- A General Fund increase of \$29.6 million for DNR capital projects for the following:
 - \$20.0 million increase for the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Fund.
 - \$8.6 million increase for the Lake Restoration Program.
 - \$1.0 million increase for a Livestock Odor Study.
- An Environment First Fund increase totaling \$585,000 for the following:
 - \$195,000 for the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Program.
 - \$150,000 for a Flood Plain Management and Dam Safety Program.

- \$150,000 for the Global Climate Change Advisory Council.
- \$90,000 for a Biofuels Permitting Program.
- An Environment First Fund decrease totaling \$16.1 million for the following:
 - \$15.5 million for REAP.
 - \$235,000 for the Livestock Air Quality Monitoring Program.
 - \$50,000 for development of a livestock database.
 - \$300,000 for the Resource Conservation and Development Program.

Issues

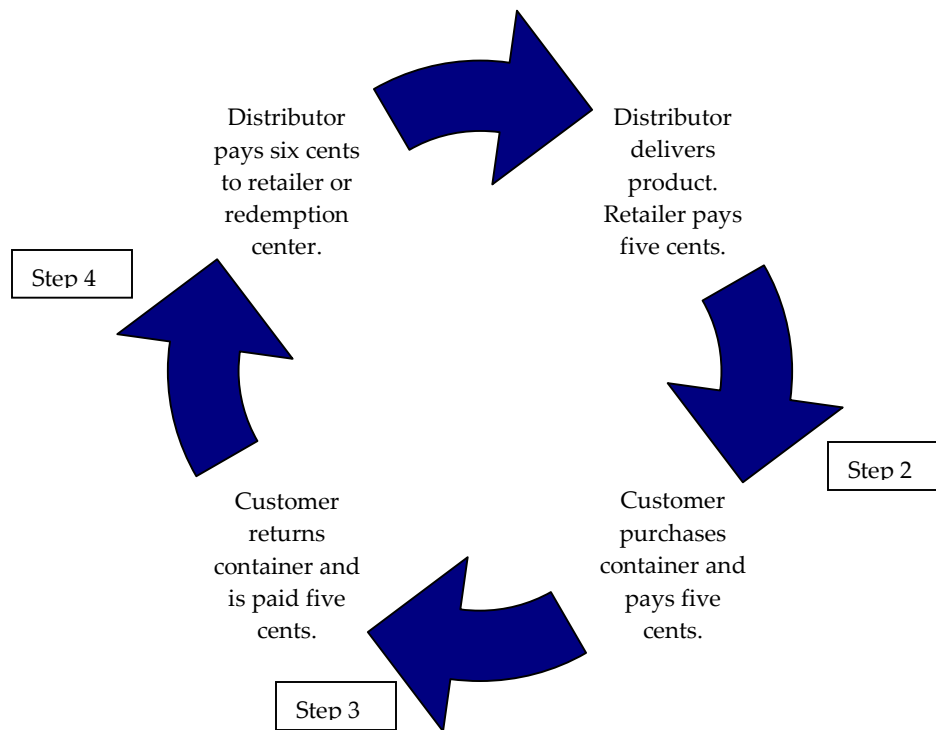
REAP – The REAP Fund was created by the 1989 Legislature with the goal of protecting Iowa’s resources. Provisions in the Code of Iowa require the Program to receive a standing appropriation up to \$20.0 million from the General Fund. *The Governor is recommending \$20.0 million from the General Fund for FY 2009.*

Lake Restoration Program – The Lake Restoration Program was implemented to improve the water quality of State-owned lakes. The DNR ranked 127 lakes based upon a number of socio-economic, water quality, watershed factors. This process resulted in a list of 35 priority lakes for restoration. *The Governor is recommending \$8.6 million from the General Fund for FY 2009.*

Livestock Odor Study – The Livestock Odor Interim Study Committee met twice during the interim. Recommendations to the General Assembly included a five-year plan that was presented by Iowa State University (ISU), the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and the DNR. *The Governor is recommending \$1.0 million from the General Fund for FY 2009 to encourage livestock producers to voluntarily utilize available odor-reducing technologies.*

Bottle Deposit Program Expansion – The Beverage Container Control Act was approved by the 1978 General Assembly and was effective on July 1, 1979. Currently, consumers purchasing carbonated beverages, beer, wine, and liquor pay a five-cent bottle deposit fee. The following is a summary of the current bottle deposit process:

- Distributors of beer, soda pop, liquor, and wine deliver the product to the retailer and charge a five-cent deposit on each container.
 - Retail establishments selling beer, soda pop, liquor, and wine are required to charge a five-cent bottle deposit per container at the point of sale. The customer pays the deposit.
 - These establishments are required to redeem only the same types of bottles that they sell. When the customer returns the containers, the retailer refunds the five-cent deposit.
 - Distributors pick up the empty containers and pay the retailer six cents per container. Five cents is for the original deposit and one cent is for a handling fee.
 - When the customer does not return the container, this is called an unclaimed deposit. The distributor retains unredeemed deposits. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) estimates the unclaimed rate is about 8.1% in the State of Iowa.
 - Refer to Appendix C for a copy of the *Issue Review* – Overview of Beverage Container Control Act.
-



The Governor is recommending to add containers for tea, sport drinks, and water to the Beverage Container Control Act and to increase the deposit amount from five cents to ten cents. The consumer will pay a ten-cent deposit and will receive eight cents when they return the container. One cent will be retained by the retailer or redemption center and one cent will go to the State. The State will use the penny to fund environmental programs. In addition, unclaimed deposits will be deposited into the General Fund. The Governor estimates additional revenue of \$21.5 million per year dedicated to environment programs from the one-cent deposit and container expansion, and \$13.2 million to the General Fund from the unclaimed bottle deposits. Environmental programs that the Governor recommended included \$20.0 million for REAP, \$8.6 million for the Lake Restoration Program, and \$1.0 million for the Livestock Odor Study.

Global Climate Change Advisory Council – The Council was created in SF 485 (Greenhouse Gas Regulations Act). The Council consists of 27 members that are required to submit a report with recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 1, 2008. The Council has held several meetings to meet this requirement, however, there was no funding to pay for related expenditures. *The Governor is recommending \$150,000 from the Environment First Fund for FY 2009.*

Flood Plain Management and Dam Safety Programs – The Flood Plain Management Program is responsible for ensuring that construction of bridges and culverts in urban and rural areas meets the appropriate criteria. Department staff review bridge applications to ensure that Iowa's roads and bridges are safe and passable during flood events. The Dam Safety Program provides regular inspection of dams in Iowa. *The Governor is recommending \$150,000 from the Environment First Fund for FY 2009.*

Biofuels Permitting – Prior to issuing a construction permit for a new facility, the DNR reviews the design and performance objectives related to air contaminants. Facilities that comply with State and federal

Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

standards are issued a permit. The number of permits to review has increased with the expansion of the biofuels industry. *The Governor is recommending \$90,000 from the Environment First Fund for FY 2009.*

Honey Creek Resort State Park – Honey Creek Resort State Park is located on Rathbun Lake in Appanoose County. The resort offers a broader range of recreational activities and lodging accommodations that includes a lodge, restaurant, conference center, 18-hole golf course, and indoor water park. Although the Honey Creek Premier Destination Park Authority approved \$33.1 million in double tax-exempt revenue bonds during 2006. Since that time, the DNR has determined an additional \$8.0 million will be needed for FY 2009 to complete the family cabins and other amenities that were part of the original plan. *The Governor is recommending funding of \$4.9 million from the RIIF and \$3.1 million from the Restricted Capitals Account for FY 2009. The Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriations Subcommittee will address this issue.*

Board of Regents

The Board of Regents oversees the State's three universities, including Iowa State University (ISU). The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at ISU currently receives funding through the Agriculture and Natural Resource Appropriations Subcommittee.

The Board of Regents is not requesting an FY 2009 General Fund appropriation from the Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee. This is a decrease of \$2.1 million compared to estimated FY 2008. The Governor is not recommending additional funding for FY 2009.

General Fund Recommendation

	Estimated FY 2008	Gov Rec FY 2009	Gov Rec vs. FY 2008
<u>Regents, Board of</u>			
ISU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory	\$ 2,068,706	\$ 0	\$ -2,068,706
Total Regents, Board of	<u>\$ 2,068,706</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ -2,068,706</u>

Department of Economic Development

The Department of Economic Development (DED) promotes economic development policies and practices that stimulate and sustain Iowa's economic growth and climate and that integrate efforts across public and private sectors. The Agriculture and Natural Resource Appropriations Subcommittee appropriated funds to DED in FY 2008 from the Environment First Fund for Brownfields.

The Governor is recommending an FY 2009 appropriation from the Environment First Fund of \$500,000. This is no change compared to estimated FY 2008.

Other Fund Recommendation

Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

	Estimated FY 2008	Gov Rec FY 2009	Gov Rec vs. FY 2008
Economic Development, Dept. of			
Brownfields Redevelopment-EFF	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 0
Total Economic Development, Dept. of	<u>\$ 500,000</u>	<u>\$ 500,000</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

Treasurer of State

The Watershed Improvement Review Board receives funding from the Treasurer of State; however, the activities and the grants awarded by the Board are managed by the DALS, so the funding is appropriated by the Agriculture and Natural Resource Appropriations Subcommittee.

The Governor is recommending an FY 2009 appropriation from the General Fund of \$5.0 million. This is a General Fund increase compared to estimated FY 2008. The funding for FY 2008 was from the Endowment for Iowa's Health Account.

General Fund Recommendation

	Estimated FY 2008	Gov Rec FY 2009	Gov Rec vs. FY 2008
<u>Treasurer of State</u>			
Watershed Protection-Water Quality	\$ 0	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
Total Treasurer of State	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 5,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,000,000</u>

Other Fund Recommendation

	Estimated FY 2008	Gov Rec FY 2009	Gov Rec vs. FY 2008
<u>Treasurer of State</u>			
Watershed Protection-Water Quality	\$ 0	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
Total Treasurer of State	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 5,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,000,000</u>

Environment First Fund

The Environment First Fund was created by the 2000 General Assembly to provide funding for environmental programs. A standing appropriation of \$35.0 million was established for the Fund from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF). During the 2007 General Assembly, the standing appropriation was increased to \$40.0 million and the Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee made recommendations to the General Assembly regarding programs that should receive appropriations from the Fund. The Governor is recommending FY 2009 Environment First Fund appropriations totaling \$24.5 million. This is a decrease of \$15.5 million compared to estimated FY 2008. The decrease is from moving the REAP Program from the Environment First Fund and a \$20.0 million General Fund appropriation. The following is a summary of the Governor's recommendations for FY 2009:

Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

	Estimated FY 2008	Gov Rec FY 2009	Gov. Rec vs. FY 2008
<u>Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship</u>			
Conservation Reserve Enhancement	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 0
Watershed Protection Fund	2,550,000	2,550,000	0
Farm Management Demonstration	850,000	850,000	0
Agricultural Drainage Wells	1,480,000	1,480,000	0
Cost Share	7,000,000	7,000,000	0
Conservation Reserve Program	1,500,000	1,500,000	0
So. Iowa Conservation & Dev. Authority	300,000	300,000	0
Loess Hills Authority	580,000	580,000	0
Flood Prevention Study-EFF	150,000	150,000	0
Farm to School Program	80,000	80,000	0
State Apiarist Program	40,000	40,000	0
Total Dept. Agriculture and Land Steward.	\$ 16,030,000	\$ 16,030,000	\$ 0
<u>Dept. of Natural Resources</u>			
REAP	\$ 15,500,000	\$ 0	\$ -15,500,000
Volunteers and Keepers of Land	100,000	100,000	0
Park Operations & Maintenance	2,470,000	2,470,000	0
GIS Information for Watershed	195,000	195,000	0
Water Quality Monitoring	2,955,000	2,955,000	0
Water Quality Protection	500,000	500,000	0
Air Quality Monitoring- Livestock	235,000	0	-235,000
Marine Fuel Tax Projects	0	0	0
Lake Dredging	0	0	0
Tire Reclamation	0	0	0
Animal Feeding Operations	360,000	360,000	0
Air Quality Monitoring - ambient	325,000	520,000	195,000
Database Development	50,000	0	-50,000
Floodplain Management/Dam Safety	0	150,000	150,000
State Forester/Ecologist	0	0	0
Water Quantity	480,000	480,000	0
Biofuels Permitting	0	90,000	90,000
Global Climate Change Council	0	150,000	150,000
Resource Conservation and Development	300,000	0	-300,000
Total Dept. of Natural Resources	\$ 23,470,000	\$ 7,970,000	\$ -15,740,000
<u>Economic Development, Department of</u>			
Env DED Brownfields	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 0
Total Economic Development, Dept. of	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 0
Total Environment First Fund	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 24,500,000	\$ -15,500,000

INTERIM COMMITTEES, MEETINGS, AND PUBLICATIONS

Animal Feeding of Distillers Dried Grains Interim Study Committee

The Animal Feeding of Distillers Dried Grains Interim Study Committee met on September 13, 2007, in Des Moines. Senator Rich Olive and Representative John Whitaker were elected as Co-Chairpersons for the Committee. In 2006, 1.6 billion gallons of ethanol were produced in Iowa. The majority of the ethanol plants in Iowa use the dry mill production method. A co-product that results from the

production of ethanol using the dry mill method is the distillers dried grain. This grain is purchased by livestock producers as feed rations.

The Committee voted to make the following recommendations to the General Assembly:

- To create and require standardized testing procedures for distillers dried grain.
- To consider increasing funding to Iowa State University to research the effects of using distillers dried grain for animal feedstock.

For additional information, refer to the following web site:

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/aspx/Committees/Committee.aspx?id=220>.

Livestock Odor Interim Study Committee

The Livestock Odor Interim Study Committee met on October 24, 2007, in Des Moines. Senator Frank Wood and Representative Wes Whitehead were elected as Co-Chairpersons for the Committee. The Committee's charge is to consider additional funding to research cost-effective management practices that will minimize odor at animal feeding operations.

The Committee met on November 28, 2007, and voted to make the following recommendations to the General Assembly:

- To recommend the five-year plan to mitigate livestock odor as presented by Wendy Wintersteen, Iowa State University (ISU), Bill Northey, Secretary of Agriculture, and Richard Leopold, Department of Natural Resources. The total estimated cost is \$22.8 million over five years.
- To recommend that swine producers requiring a construction permit must complete a Community Air Modeling Study with assistance from ISU. The recommendation included funding to ISU for up to \$1,000 per study.

For additional information, refer to the following web site:

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/aspx/Committees/Committee.aspx?id=213>.

The Governor is recommending funding from the General Fund of \$1.0 million for FY 2009 to encourage livestock producers to voluntarily utilize available odor-reducing technologies.

Sustainable Funding For Natural Resources Interim Study Committee

The Sustainable Funding for Iowa's Natural Resources Advisory Committee was created in HF 2797 (FY 2007 Standings Appropriations Act). The purpose of the Committee is to research and recommend funding sources that will provide sustainable funding for natural resource needs in Iowa. The legislation required the Committee to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 10, 2007. The Advisory Committee submitted a draft report on January 10, 2007, and a final report on March 1, 2007. The final report stated that \$150.0 million per year would be needed for sustainable natural resources.

During 2007, the Sustainable Funding for Natural Resources Funding Interim Study Committee was appointed by the Legislative Council. Meetings were held on August 13, and November 1 and 2 in Des Moines. Senator Dick Dearden and Representative Paul Bell were elected as Co-Chairpersons for the Committee.

During the November 1 and 2 Interim Study Committee meetings, presentations were made on economic benefits, taxation issues, funding mechanisms to raise \$150.0 million per year, and what other

states have done for sustainable natural resources. The Interim Study Committee will meet in January to make recommendations to the General Assembly, however no date has been determined. For additional information, refer to the following web site: <http://www.iowadnr.com/sustainablefunding/>.

Global Climate Change Advisory Council

The Global Climate Change Advisory Council met on October 18, 2007, in Des Moines. The Council was created in SF 485 (Greenhouse Gas Regulations Act). The Council consists of 23 voting members and four nonvoting members. The Council is charged with:

- Developing scenarios to reduce Statewide greenhouse gas emissions while considering cost-effectiveness.
- Establishing a baseline year for purposes of calculating reductions in Statewide greenhouse gas emissions.
- Submitting a proposal to the Governor and General Assembly by January 1, 2008.

The Council met on December 17 in Davenport. The Council discussed several options for the first report that was submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly on January 1, 2008. The Council's recommendations include:

- Developing multiple scenarios for Statewide reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- Adopting a baseline year of 2005 for the purposes of calculating Statewide greenhouse gas emissions in future years.
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions for interim years including 2012, 2020, and 2050.

For additional information, refer to the following web site:

<http://www.iaclimatechange.us/ewebeditpro/items/O90F14538.pdf>.

The Governor is recommending funding of \$150,000 from the Environment First Fund for the Global Climate Change Advisory Council.

Watershed Improvement Review Board

The Watershed Improvement Review Program was established during the 2005 Legislative Session in SF 200 (Agriculture Powers, Duties, and Watershed Improvement Act). The legislation also created a Watershed Improvement Review Fund and a Watershed Improvement Review Board. The purpose of the Board is to review applications and award grants for projects that will encourage public participation and input for determining priorities to improve the State's water quality. The following grants have been awarded:

- FY 2006—17 grants totaling \$4.8 million were awarded for projects totaling \$14.0 million.
- FY 2007—16 grants totaling \$4.9 million were awarded for projects totaling \$18.0 million.
- FY 2008—16 grants totaling \$2.7 million were awarded for projects totaling \$10.0 million.

Funding for the Watershed Improvement Review Fund is appropriated to the State Treasurer each year. *The Governor is recommending \$5.0 million from the General Fund for FY 2009 to continue the funding for the Program.* Funding for FY 2008 was from the Endowment for Iowa's Health Account. For more information on the Watershed Improvement Review Board, refer to the following web site:

<http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/IWIRB.htm>.

Watershed Quality Planning Task Force

The Watershed Quality Planning Task Force was created during the 2007 Legislative Session in SF 2363 (Water Quality Standards Act). The legislation specified that the Task Force must make recommendations to the General Assembly by June 30, 2008, for a voluntary Statewide water quality program. The report date was changed to January 1, 2008, in SF 551 (FY 2008 Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Act). The Task Force met on November 15, finalized their recommendations, and submitted the report. The recommendations included:

- Creation of a Water Resource Coordinating Council under the direction of the Governor.
- Conduct a water quality research and marketing campaign to rekindle the conservation ethic in all Iowans. The funding recommendation is \$1.0 million for one year to develop a campaign.
- Create regional watershed assessment, planning and prioritization. The funding recommendation is \$5.0 million annually.
- Implement smaller projects and identify sub-watersheds. The funding recommendation is \$5.0 million annually.
- Support for community-based watershed monitoring and measurement by providing technical and financial support for locally-based watershed monitoring and measurement. The funding recommendation is \$ 2.5 million annually.
- Development of wastewater and stormwater treatment infrastructure.

For more information on the Task Force and a copy of the final report, refer to the following web site:
<http://www.iowadnr.com/water/taskforce/index.html>.

Farm-To-School Council

The Farm-To-School Program and the Farm-To-School Council were created in SF 601 (FY 2008 Standings Appropriations Act). The goal of the Program is to link Iowa elementary and secondary public and nonpublic schools with Iowa farms to provide schools with fresh and minimally processed food that will be served for meals and snacks. In addition, the Program is to encourage children to develop healthy eating habits, and provide Iowa farmers access to consumer markets. The members of the Council were appointed by the Governor on November 8, 2007. The first meeting was held on January 8 to develop objectives, strategies, and timetables for the Council. *The Governor is recommending \$80,000 from the Environment First Fund for FY 2009.*

LSA Publications

The following publications have been issued by the LSA that relate to the Agriculture and Land Stewardship Appropriations Subcommittee:

- [Overview of Iowa's Farmer's Markets](#)
- [Help Us Stop Hunger Program](#)

Staff Contact: Deb Kozel (1-6767) (deb.kozel@legis.state.ia.us)

Subcommittee Web Site: <http://www3.legis.state.ia.us/ga/committee.do?id=33>
